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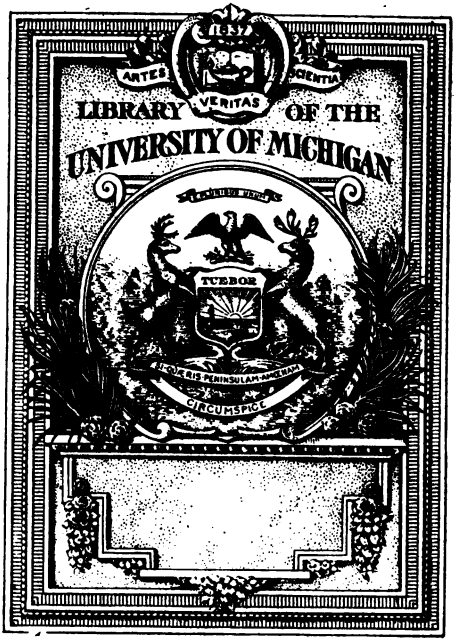

THE GIFT OF
St. Louis Civic League

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Tree Planting

REPORT OF THE

TREE PLANTING COMMITTEE

OF

The Civic Improvement League
of Saint Louis

1905

Office
712 Security Building

ST. LOUIS, NOVEMBER, 1905.

TO THE EXECUTIVE BOARD:

Your Committee, appointed to encourage the planting, culture, and preservation of shade trees in St. Louis, issues this pamphlet in connection with the $500.00 Tree Planting Prize Contest which has been inaugurated by the League among the school children of the city. We are firmly convinced that what is for the permanent good of the city can and should be introduced into the public schools. We hope that the information herein contained may assist the pupils and the citizens in their efforts to add to the comfort, beauty, and attractiveness of our streets and homes. We believe the planting of a tree is a true expression of altruism. It not only benefits the present generation but adds to the comfort and pleasure of generations yet to come.

If the efforts of your committee and the liberalty of a patriotic citizen in supplying the funds for the work can be supplemented by the establishment of the office of City Forester, as provided for by the bill recently introduced into the Municipal Assembly through our efforts, the beauty and comfort of our well paved streets will be greatly improved. Respectfully submitted,

TREE PLANTING COMMITTEE,

MAYO FESLER, Secretary.

DR. SELDEN SPENCER, Chairman.
CHARLES REBSTOCK,
W. J. STEVENS,
H. C. IRISH,
LEO C. DZIATZKO,
W. SCOTT HANCOCK,
H. N. SPENCER, JR.
F. A. WEBER,
G. M. HOLFERTY,

352.0731

Tree Planting in St. Louis

RECOMMENDATIONS
OF THE
TREE PLANTING COMMITTEES
OF
The Civic Improvement League
and the
Englemann Botanical Club

November, 1905

To the St. Louis Public:

The Tree Planting committees of the Civic Improvement League and the Englemann Botanical Club, desirous of arousing a greater interest in the planting of shade trees in St. Louis, offer the following suggestions relative to the planting, culture, and protection of trees, in the hope that they will be of assistance to our citizens in their efforts to improve and beautify the streets of this city.

I. WHY PLANT TREES:

1. They increase the value of surrounding property.
2. They protect the pavement from the heat of the sun.
3. They add beauty and comfort to the city streets.
4. They cool the air in summer and radiate warmth in winter.
6. They purify the air—the leaves inhale carbonic acid gas and exhale oxygen.
7. They aid in counteracting the unnatural conditions of city life.

II. WHAT TREES TO PLANT:

Trees for general street planting should be nursery grown. Those transplanted from the forest have a poorly developed root

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system and hence do not grow so readily or so symmetrically. Nursery grown trees have well developed and compact root systems and symmetrical tops, and they are accustomed to transplanting. Trees grown in the vicinity of St. Louis will be found better adapted to the local conditions.

III. KIND OF TREES TO PLANT:

Only a few kinds of trees will grow in this city owing to the gas, dust, smoke, and pavement. *In general only smooth leaved trees should be planted.* The American Elm, one of the most graceful of shade trees, is so uncertain of growth that it is a waste of money to plant it except in the extreme outlying districts.

The following list contains the kinds of trees which the Committees recommend as the most durable and satisfactory:

1. *Maple, Silver Leaved or Soft* (Acer dasycarpum.) A hardy, rapid growing tree, of large size, valuable for producing a quick shade. An excellent tree for street planting and largely used in resident sections west of Grand avenue.

2. *Maple, Sugar or Hard,* (Acer saccharinum.) A very popular American tree, justly ranked among the best, both for lawn and street, because of its stately form and fine foliage. Since this tree is of slow growth it should be alternated with Carolina Poplars or European Cottonwood, which will produce shade until the Maple has had an opportunity to develop, after which the Poplar should be cut out. Recommended for subdivisions where no previous planting has been done.

3. *Sycamore, or Plane* (Platanus.) A lofty, wide spreading tree, large leaved, very ornamental, and entirely hardy. The most valuable tree for the more densely populated sections of our large cities—especially adapted to resist the ill effects of coal smoke and gases.

4. *Elm, American* (Ulmus americana.) The noble, drooping, spreading tree of our woods, one of the most dignified and stately street trees in America; but in St. Louis the Elm suffers not only from the smoke and gas but from various diseases and insects.

5. *Birch, White* (Betula alba.) A small beautiful and graceful tree with tremulous shining leaves and chalk-white bark. This tree requires a rather moist soil and is recommended only for the lower outlying sections of the city. It is a tree extremely difficult to transplant, especially in any of the larger sizes. Only the lighter grades should be planted, and these in districts where the tree will have plenty of time to develop. An avenue of American Birches with their graceful bending branches and white trunks produces a most pleasing effect.

6. *Poplar, Carolina* (Populus monilifera.) A vigorous, healthy, native tree of rapid growth, pyramidal in form, with large glassy leaves. Unfortunately this tree is not long lived, but is valuable as a filler between sugar maples or other slow growing trees where it is expected to furnish only a temporary shade.

7. *Poplar, Lombardy* (Populus nigra pyramidalis.) A tall columnar tree which grows to a great height. Adapted to narrow streets and streets where houses are near the building line. Can be kept from growing too tall by careful annual pruning.

8. *European Cottonwood* (Populus nigra; often called Populus graeca or Grecian Poplar.) A tree with almost the identical foliage of the Lombardy Poplar, but with a more spreading habit than the Carolina Poplar and somewhat longer lived. An avenue of Grecian poplars, carefully trimmed, makes a very satisfactory shade for a number of years.

9. *Pin Oak* (Quercus palustris.) A desirable tree for street and boulevard planting. A deep rooted and permanent tree when once established; practically free from insect pests. Requires careful planting, the best of attention for the first year, and severe pruning thereafter. When planting Oaks, they should be alternated with some faster growing tree, perferably Poplars.

IV. UNIFORMITY IN TREES:

The beauty of a tree avenue depends much upon the planting of a uniform species the full length, or at least for several blocks of the avenue. Trees of different shapes and sizes give to a street a ragged, irregular, and unsightly appearance. The

Committee urge the residents along any given street to meet and agree upon one kind of tree to be planted the full length of that street. Uniformity, without rigidity, in tree planting, will add much to the beauty and comfort of the street and home, and will greatly enhance the value of abutting property.

V. WHEN TO PLANT:

Trees may be planted in the spring or fall—preferably in the spring before the buds open. In this climate the best season for planting is found to be from the latter part of March until the middle of May, when the ground is fairly dry and capable of being easily worked.

VI. DISTANCE TO PLANT:

The space which should be left between trees when planted varies somewhat with the different kinds. In general, *trees should be planted about twenty-five feet apart.* The following suggestions, however, are made relative to the distance apart for the different kinds of trees discussed in this report:

1. Silver or soft maple—25 to 30 feet apart.
2. Sugar or hard maple (alternated with poplars)—15 to 18 feet apart.
3. Sycamore—25 to 30 feet apart.
4. American elm (alternated with poplars)—15 to 18 feet apart.
5. White birch—16 to 20 feet apart.
6. Carolina poplar—18 to 20 feet apart.
7. European Cottonwood—18 to 20 feet apart.
8. Lombardy poplar—16 to 18 feet apart.
9. Pin Oak (alternated with Poplar)—15 to 18 feet apart.

VII. PROTECTION OF TREES:

1. *Tree guards.* Every tree at the time of planting should be enclosed to the height of six feet in a suitable tree guard. A screen made of galvanized wire netting of a small mesh is an inexpensive but entirely effective device for protecting the tree against horses and also against many insects. Unless these precautions are taken to protect the tree it is hardly worth while to plant.

2. *Insects and Fungi.* The protection of trees from insects and fungi requires constant care and watchfulness. The first sign of danger should be followed by spraying with some recmended tree wash or solution, as follows:

(a) For the trunk: ¼ lb. whale oil soap in one gallon of water.

(b) For leaves being eaten by insects: ¼ lb. Paris green or Arsenate of lead in fifty gallons of water.

(c) For fungi: 6 lbs. Copper sulphate and 4 lbs. lime in fifty gallons water.

VIII. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Further information regarding the planting of trees will be gladly furnished by the Committee of the League or by the Secretary of the Engelmann Botanical Club. Address Mr. S. H. Thompson, Secretary Engelmann Botanical Club, Shaw's Garden, or Mr. Mayo Fesler, Secretary Civic Improvement League, 712 Security Building, St. Louis.

The City Forester Ordinance

(Copy of an Ordinance, creating the office of City Forester, recently introduced in the Municipal Assembly of St. Louis at the request of the Civic Improvement League.)

An ordinance creating the office of City Forester, defining the qualification and duties of City Forester, fixing his salary, and authorizing and providing for the appointment of an assistant and other subordinates in the City Forester's office, fixing their salaries, defining their duties, regulating the planting and preservation of trees in streets, alleys, and public highways, creating certain misdemeanors for violating the provisions hereof and prescribing penalties therefor.

Be it ordained by the Municipal Assembly of the City of St. Louis, as follows:

SECTION I. There is hereby created in the Street Department the office of City Forester.

SECTION II. The City Forester shall be appointed by the Mayor and approved by the Council. He shall hold office for four years and until his successor shall have been duly appointed and qualified. No appointment shall take effect under this ordinance until the first Tuesday in April, 1906, and the term of office of the first appointee as City Forester shall terminate the third Tuesday in April, 1907.

SECTION III. The City Forester shall be a man skilled and learned in the science of Forestry and shall have had not less than three years experience as a practical forester.

SECTION IV. It shall be the duty of the City Forester to superintend, regulate, and encourage the planting, culture, and preservation of shade and ornamental trees and shrubbery in the streets, alleys and public highways of said city; to direct the time and method of trimming of said trees and shrubbery; to advise the property owners regarding the kind of trees and shrubbery and method of planting deemed desirable on particular streets; and to take such measures as may be deemed necessary for the control of dangerously injurious insect pests and plant diseases which may affect trees

and shrubbery on the streets, alleys, and public highways of said city. He shall act in harmony with and under the direction of the Street Commissioner in relation to the planting, culture, removal and preservation of shade and ornamental trees and shrubbery in the streets, alleys, and public highways of said city. He shall report to the City Attorney all cases which come to his knowledge of violations of ordinances respecting said trees and shrubbery; and shall, when requested by the City Attorney, assist in the prosecution of persons charged with the violation of such ordinances.

SECTION V. The City Forester shall keep a record of all the transactions of his office and shall, whenever the Street Commissioner may require, make a full and detailed report concerning said transactions.

SECTION VI. The salary of the City Forester shall be at the rate of twenty-four hundred dollars per year, payable in monthly installments, in full for all services. He shall give bond in the sum of five thousand dollars for the faithful performance of his duties, with not less than two good sureties, holders of unencumbered real estate in the city or any surety company, which bond shall be approved by the Mayor and Council.

SECTION VII. The Street Commissioner may, by and with the approval of the Mayor, appoint the following subordinates who shall hold their respective positions during the pleasure of the Street Commissioner and who shall aid in carrying out the duties herein specified and such other duties as pertain to their respective positions, and such as may be required of them by the Street Commissioner; and they shall each receive the following salaries and give the following bonds, to-wit:

Assistant City Forester, who shall have had at least one year's practical experience as a Forester and shall receive a salary of $125.00 per month, and shall give a good and sufficient bond, to be approved by the Mayor and Council, in the sum of $2,500.00; one clerk, who shall receive a salary of $75.00 per month; and three day inspectors, who shall receive $2.50 per day. In addition to the officers herein specified, the Street Commissioner shall, by and with the approval of the Mayor, employ such teams, carts, and day laborers as may be required for the sufficient working of his department.